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Claims

1. Method for checking the fitness for purpose of analysis elements, in which method it is checked, whether a control value measured for at least one control parameter of a checked analysis element is within a tolerance range,
- wherein
- a) in a first step, a first standard reference value is determined in a reference value measurement at a reference control means which provides a standardized reference value for the control parameter,
- b) in a second step, the control parameter of a first analysis element is determined as control reference value,
- c) in a third step, the quotient from the control reference value and the first standard reference value is calculated and set as first reference quotient for analysis elements measured later,
- d) in a fourth step, the control parameter of a second analysis element is determined as control value for the second analysis element to be checked,
- e) in a fifth step, the quotient from the control value and the first standard reference value is calculated as the control quotient,

f) in a sixth step, the deviation between the control quotient and the first reference quotient is determined and

g) the checked second analysis element is rejected if the deviation is not within a given tolerance range.

2. Method according to claim 1, wherein the deviation is determined using a relative difference between the control quotient and the first reference quotient in step g).

3. Method according to claim 1, wherein the deviation is determined using a difference between the control quotient and the first reference quotient in step g).

4. Method according to claim 1, wherein the checked, second analysis element is rejected in step g), if the control quotient is smaller, by a given percentage, than the first reference quotient.

5. Method according to claim 1, wherein the checked, second analysis element is rejected in step g), if the control quotient is smaller, by a given difference value, than the first reference quotient.

6. Method according to claim 1, wherein a tolerance range is used in step g) which is batch-specific for the current batch of analysis elements.

7. Method according to claim 1 wherein the first analysis element and the second analysis element, the one to be checked, are comprised in a package or in a storage container, which contains further similar

analysis elements, showing a long-time packaging common to all analysis elements.

8. Method according to claim 7, wherein the analysis
5 elements in the package or in the storage container
are individually protected by an individual packaging
element.

9. Method according to claim 7, wherein the analysis
10 element which is the first one to be removed from a
package or from a storage container contained in the
package, is chosen in step b).

10. Method according to claim 7, wherein steps a) to c)
15 are performed when a new package is used, when the
first analysis element of a package or a storage con-
tainer is used or when a long-time packaging is
opened.

11. Method according to claim 1, wherein the steps a) to
20 c) are repeated, if a change which potentially influ-
ences the measured value, was performed on the
evaluation device which performs the control measure-
ment or the analytical measurement, respectively.

12. Method according to claim 1, wherein in case of the
25 determination of a given deviation in step g), the
control value determined in step d) is used as new
control reference value according to step b), calcu-
30 lating a new reference quotient from this according
to step c), and that this new reference quotient is
used as basis for checking further analysis elements
according to steps d) to g).

13. Method according to claim 12, wherein a new reference quotient is formed, if a control quotient determined in step e) exceeds the current reference quotient by more than a fixed limit value.

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14. Method according to claim 13, wherein a tolerance value is used, which is batch-specific for the current batch of analysis elements.

10 15. Method according to claim 1, wherein one or various method steps are performed automatically.

16. Method according to claim 1, wherein a reference control means is used, providing a high measured value for the control parameter in step a).

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17. Method according to claim 1, wherein such analysis elements are used which comprise a control means for the measurement of the control reference value or control value, as well as the reference control means for the reference value measurement of step a).

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18. Method according to claim 1, wherein the analysis element is a test element for a substrate-based rapid test for the qualitative or quantitative analysis of components of a solid or liquid sample, in particular of body liquids of human beings or animals, in particular for the determination of the blood glucose content.

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19. Method according to claim 1, wherein the control parameter is an optical measured value, in particular a remission value.

